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IMAGES IN CARDIOLOGY.....

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Asymptomatic coronary artery aneurysm associated with paclitaxel eluting stent

63 year old woman with hypercholesterolaemia underwent percutaneous coronary intervention for exertional chest pain: a 3.0 × 33 mm sirolimus eluting stent (Cypher, Cordis, Johnson and Johnson Co) for a notably stenotic left anterior descending artery (LAD) at its proximal portion; and a 3.5 × 32 mm paclitaxel eluting stent (Taxus, Boston Scientific Co) for a totally occluded left circumflex artery (LCx) were inserted successfully (panel A).

Following the procedure the patient progressed well and was free of symptoms. Six months after the procedure, a follow up coronary angiography was performed to evaluate the patency of the stented segment. The Cypher stent in the proximal LAD was patent. However, a large coronary aneurysm was observed at the body of the Taxus stent implanted in the distal LCx, without any evidence of significant restenosis (panel B). Intravascular ultrasound (IVUS, SciMed/ Boston Scientific) demonstrated the presence of a true aneurysm at the mid portion of the Taxus stent (panels C and D) measuring 6 mm × 15 mm at its maximum dimensions. Since there were no thrombi within the aneurysm and the size of the aneurysm was not significantly large, the patient was discharged without further intervention, and has remained asymptomatic.

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